

FBI

Date: 2/27/68

Transmit the following in _____
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Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: *CWP* DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: *J* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-55856)
 SUBJECT: *X* MERRITT JUNIOR COLLEGE
 5714 Grove Street
 Oakland, California
 INFORMATION CONCERNING - RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 5-15-92 BY 8123 mcd/lsc
 54228

291702

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of LHM
 regarding RM activity at Merritt College.

Source in LHM is [redacted]

[redacted] by request.

LHM is classified "~~Confidential~~" to protect the
 identity of the source, who requested her identity be con-
 cealed to "protect her life."

The Agents who interviewed Dr. REDFORD were SAs
 [redacted] and [redacted]

ENCLOSURE

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (AM) (RM)
 3 - San Francisco
 (1 - 100-55856) 5/228
 (1 - 157-405) (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, OAKLAND)
 (1 - 157-266) (RM, OAKLAND)

RGA:mfm
 (7)

/ Room 836
 9 & D

Agency G-2 IDIU OSL CRD 5575

Date Forw. 3/2/68

C. C. - Bishop

How Forw. P/S

By *CWP/jcs*

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

la CIA, 11/13/69,
 due CIA inquiry re
 Merritt Smith.
 ARK

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b7Cb6
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b7Db6
b7C



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

San Francisco, California
February 27, 1968

DECLASSIFIED BY 8123mc HAPC
ON 5-15-92

MERRITT JUNIOR COLLEGE
5714 Grove Street
Oakland, California

291702

The "Oakland Tribune", a daily newspaper published in Oakland, California, in its issue of February 26, 1968, carried an article captioned "Merritt College Upheaval, Six Student Body Leaders Resigned". The article states five of the members resigned because "They were marked for death if they did not quit."

Officer [redacted] Oakland Police Department Intelligence Section, advised that the Oakland Police Department had copies of the letters of resignation but no formal complaint had been filed by any of the above students.

b6
b7c

"The Bird's Word", a daily newsletter published by the Associated Students of Merritt College, Inc. (ASMC), in its issue of February 13, 1968, stated that on February 9, 1968, the Merritt Council defeated a resolution to invalidate the election and declared the student body officers elected at the last general election to be valid and the student government is now in action.

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Group 1
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157-6-47-1133



323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

February 27, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Title

MERRITT JUNIOR COLLEGE
5714 Grove Street
Oakland, California

Character

Reference

San Francisco memorandum
dated and captioned as
above

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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MERRITT JUNIOR COLLEGE
5714 Grove Street
Oakland, California

against his life and his wife's by a militant black student.

The source said Dr. Redford recently came under fire from student groups on campus for an article he wrote for the "American Junior College Journal" and his role in the recent student body election dispute. The source said that Dr. Redford's article attacked "profiteering from activism." Redford stated Merritt College lives in the midst of student activism but the Administration believes in broad policies with few rules. Redford's article gave a factual review of student groups and activities over the years at Merritt College.

Calif

The source advised that the Soul Students Advisory Council (a black militant organization recognized by Merritt College as a registered campus group) replied to Dr. Redford's article with a 9-page letter criticizing his approach to campus problems --- "We did not appreciate the negative reference made to 'activists' on this campus because we hold the position as black activist leaders on campus and thus take this as a personal slap. The thing that hurt us most is that you take the credit for all the positive things that came out of black activism, such as the 'Negro' history class which you lied and said, 'helps all of its students to an understanding of; and appreciation of; the Negro, his culture and background, his needs as an important segment of the population, and the contributions he made to our country.'" This is just like the old plantation master who used to take credit for giving the house slave a few tattered clothes and hog snouts as tokens while the master wears fine clothes and eats choice foods. If we may invade your thick skull for a moment, when has history ever freed a person, when has history done more than remind us of the bloody brutality which your ancestors, i.e., yo' mama and daddy, have forced upon a glorious and noble black race. You consciously failed to mention that it was pressure put on black student groups that brought the concern for a black history class, and you have not made any comment in the Junior College Journal or anyplace else letting the community or college community here know that these

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"positive things for the black student on this campus have resulted from black students going through what you would have the nerve to call the democratic process of this campus to get our grievances redressed even though we question your ability to recognize democratic processes."

The letter closed with the following demands,
"We as black students at Merritt College demand three unalterable actions which will promote good will and harmony among men and women at Merritt College:

- "(1) The immediate resignation of Dr. Redford.
- "(2) A retraction of the article written by Dr. Redford in the Junior College Journal.
- "(3) The resolute and speedy correction of the obvious inadequacies of the school program for night students.

"In closing we will insure the enforcement of the above actions by any means necessary. We can no longer sit idly by and tolerate scare techniques designed to foment or resulting in the consolidation of anti-black sentiment as Dr. Redford's crude attempt to build a case against black people implementing meaningful changes. Redford's actions are only a small reflection of a horrendous system which is moving to crush black people in their striving for black liberation.

"It must be understood by all who would try to stop the revolutionary resurgence of black people, that we shall not be stopped, until the last breath is snatched from our bodies, and even then our spirits will live with our future generations who will insure an everlasting victory."

Source said the above letter was unsigned.
Copies of this memorandum are being furnished locally to Army, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Attorney and Secret Service.

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MERRITT JUNIOR COLLEGE
5714 Grove Street
Oakland, California

Calif

The "Oakland Tribune" in an article of February 26, 1968, quotes Bill ~~Riley~~, a Negro, elected President of the student body, as saying he had received "no direct threats," and had not yet decided on whether he will resign. "I'll play it by ear," he said.

The "Oakland Tribune" in its issue of February 27, 1968 reported that "Four more student leaders resign" --- "under pressure of threats which have pervaded the campus since before the students took office last month." --- "None of the students would admit having received direct threats. But, they said they had received word of the threats, including assassination and widespread campus violence from persons they considered to be reliable" --- "All were affiliated with the ~~Merritt Student Party~~, a multi-racial group which won office with over 61 percent of the vote." *Calif*

Calif A source advised during January, 1968 of campus unrest following disputed election of Merritt Student Party officers in January 25 - 26, 1968 elections. The source said the campus has been in heated political fever ever since Bill Riley and his slate of officers running as the Merritt Student Party defeated a slate headed by Mrs. Harriet ~~Smith~~, last quarter's President in the January 25 - 26, 1968 elections. Mrs. Smith's candidacy was supported by militant black students. Both Riley and Mrs. Smith are Negroes.

The "Merritt College Reporter" published weekly by ASMC reported on February 22, 1968, that Dr. Edward H. Redford, Ph.D., President, Merritt College, announced his resignation to the Board of Trustees on February 26, 1968, to be effective June 30, 1968. His announcement plans for retirement were to serve as Educational Consultant for the Peralta District and University of California Center for the Study of Higher Education. *Calif*

Dr. Redford in an interview with Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 20, 1968, stated he was resigning because of threats made

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